

1. A method of selecting a format for displaying video image information received in a signal including conditional access information, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving said signal including video image information and conditional access information associated with one of a plurality of picture resolution formats;
- b) decoding said conditional access information in said received signal, wherein said decoded conditional access information comprises data relating to picture resolution formats available for at least one of:
 - i) recording said video image information; and
 - ii) reproducing said recorded video image information; and
- c) adaptively selecting a picture resolution format in response to said decoded conditional access information; and
- d) processing said video image information using said selected picture resolution format.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein selection of said picture resolution format is in response to said decoded conditional access information determining user entitlement to select one of said plurality of available picture resolution formats.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said picture resolution format is one of:

- i) a standard definition format; and
- ii) a high definition format.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recording said video image information in said selected picture resolution format on a recording medium.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of reproducing said recorded video image information in said selected picture resolution format on a display.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said video image information of said received signal is transmitted as a digital signal on a first channel.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of receiving ancillary data transmitted on a second channel for controlling processing of said video image data.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said ancillary data is transmitted as an analog video signal.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of picture resolution formats is associated with a respective billing rate and further comprising the step of billing a user at the billing rate associated with a selected one of said plurality of picture resolution formats.

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10. A method of selecting a format for displaying video image information received in a signal including copy protection information, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving said signal including video image information and copy protection information associated with one of a plurality of display formats;
- 10 b) decoding said copy protection information in said received signal, wherein said copy protection information comprises data relating to display formats available for at least one of:
 - i) recording said video image information; and
 - ii) reproducing said recorded video image information; and
- 15 c) adaptively selecting a format for displaying said video image information on a display in response to said decoded copy protection information; and
- d) processing said video image information using said selected display format.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein selection of said display format is in response to said decoded copy protection information determining user entitlement to select one of said plurality of available display formats.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein said display format is one of:

- i) a standard definition format; and
- ii) a high definition format.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of recording said video image information in a format determined by said decoded copy protection information on a recording medium.

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14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of reproducing said recorded video image information in said format determined by said decoded copy protection information on a display.

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15. The method of claim 10, wherein said video image information of said received signal is transmitted as a digital signal on a first channel.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of receiving ancillary data transmitted on a second channel for controlling processing of said video image data.

5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said ancillary data is transmitted as an analog video signal.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of display formats is associated with a respective billing rate and further comprising the step of billing a user at the
10 billing rate associated with a selected one of said plurality of display formats.

19. A method of selecting a format for recording video image information received in a signal including copy protection information, said method comprising the steps of:

- 15 a) receiving said signal including video image information and copy protection information associated with one of a plurality of recording formats wherein said copy protection information also controls subsequent copying of said video image information ;
- b) decoding said copy protection information in said received signal;
- 20 c) adaptively selecting a format for recording said video image information on a recording medium in response to said decoded copy protection information; and
- d) processing said video image information using said selected recording format.

25 20. The method of claim 19, wherein selection of said recording format is in response to said decoded copy protection information determining user entitlement to select one of said plurality of available recording formats.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said recording format is one of:
30 i) a standard definition format; and
 ii) a high definition format.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of recording said processed video image information in said selected recording format on a recording medium.

35 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of reproducing said recorded video image information in said selected recording format on a display.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein said copy protection information further includes information indicating a time period during which said processed video image information is able to be reproduced.

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25. The method of claim 24, wherein said time period is set in response to said decoded copy protection information determining user entitlement to select one of said plurality of available recording formats.

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26. The method of claim 19, wherein said video image information of said received signal is transmitted as a digital signal on a first channel.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of receiving ancillary data transmitted on a second channel for controlling processing of said video image data.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein said ancillary data is transmitted as an analog video signal.

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29. The method of claim 19, wherein each of said plurality of recording formats is associated with a respective billing rate and further comprising the step of billing a user at the billing rate associated with a selected one of said plurality of recording formats.

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